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GROUND
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OR
GINE
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(LARGE)

The H~~ACK~~er Files



OPERATION:
MOONSWITCH (L)

by Lewis Miller,
Tom Clancy, &
Mark Buckingham

“

Loaded with unusual
appeal...

I can't recommend it
highly enough...

Deserves the same sort of
reader loyalty as equally
sophisticated books like
Siedman and Hellmayer.

”

—Comic Shop News





OH GOD!









The Hacker Files

GOD-FORGIVEN
NOTHING BUT
GODSPEED!

OPERATION MOON WITCH

LEWIS GARDNER: WRITER/EDITOR
TOM SAWYER: PENCILS
MARK BUCKENHAM: INKS
LONNIE KIMPTREY: COLORS
ROBERT GARDNER: GUTS & GRACE



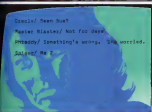


digitronix





Catherine--
Programming is not my thing, but I can put
you in touch with somebody good. Her handle
is Sue Denin. Hang tight, I'll be in touch.
-Catherine



Daniel/ Seen Sue?
Master Blaster/ Not too close.
Phreddy/ Something's wrong. I'm worried.
Salser/ Me 2.

Daniel/ Anybody know her
real name?

Master Blaster/ Nope.

Dr. Sam/ Sorry.



2000047

2000050

2000055

2000060

Password not found.

Unauthorized access attempt.

Super user login attempt.

User I.S.(01	Sue Denin
Password (02	pepper
Real Name(03	Jennifer #1
Address (04	2027 Palms
City/St/Zip(05	Seattle, WA
Phone Mac(06	(206) 801-38



WOOZY

MR. FLETCHER? YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT I'M ONE OF YOUR DAUGHTER'S FRIENDS. WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT HER--



OH NOO.

MR. FLETCHER WANT'S ANSWERS!



THE NEW ARRESTED & KIDNAPPED IS MORE LIKE IT

BY WOOZY?

THE SECRET SERVICE



THEY CLEARED OUT ONE BATHING SUITE! I HAD TO BRING THIS PHONE FROM WORK

WHERE IS SHE NOW?



THEY HAVE HER SOMEWHERE IN BUCKINGHAM MY LAWYER TOLD HER THAT MR. BUT SHE CAN'T GET HER RELEASED!



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

COMPLIMENTS ARE TO BE



WE DID SAY ONE THING AS THEY TOOK HER AWAY. SHE SAID, "CALL HACKER." DOES THAT ANSWER ANYTHING TO YOU?



YES

YES, IT DOES



It's close to personal
CHILDREN



That was PROBABLY
the phone attack



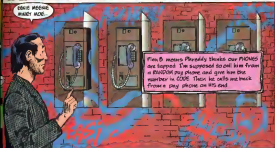
He's one of the self-styled
"Speed Metal King" who thinks
they're my eyes and ears



Okay, so maybe they ARE



That means
MURDER



First he says PROBABLY thinks our PHONES
are tapped. I'm supposed to call him from
a RANDOM pay phone and give him the
number is 6000. Then he calls me back
from a pay phone on 95 and

Which he eventu-
ally does.

YEAH, IT'S
ALL. WHAT'S THE
GIVE P

IT'S THE FEELS
THEY'RE PROBABLY WATCH-
ING ALL OF IT



THEY HANDED
SHE HANDED HER IN,
TOOK HER COMPUTER,
EVERYTHING

WHAT?

I THINK
IT'S ABOUT SOMETHING
CALLED







EMER

IT'S A PHONE
COMPLAIN INTERNAL
DOCUMENT

IT'S NOT ALL THE TEXT DETAILS
ON HOW THE EMERGENCY POLICE FILE
AND AMBULANCE SERVICE WORKS



WELCOME TO THE

P	R					0000		0000	N	N
R	R	R	R	R	R	0	0	0	N	N
P	R	R	R	R	R	0	0	0	N	N
R	R	R	R	R	R	0	0	0	N	N
R	R	R	R	R	R	0000		0000	N	N

U	R	R	R	R	R	TTTTT	CCC	N	N
U	R	R	R	R	R	T	C	N	N
U	R	R	R	R	R	T	C	N	N
U	R	R	R	R	R	T	C	N	N
U	R	R	R	R	R	T	CCC	N	N

WHY? THE DOCUMENT
THE BULLETIN BOARD
WOULD IT AS AN EXCUSE
THE ENTIRE BUREAU G

Using real names

THE MORE THE PHONE COMPLAIN AS
BASIC OF LOCAL COPS, WERE NOT THE
THING SHOULD CALLED "OPERATION
BROCKWATER" IT'S NAMED AFTER
DEEDY BULLETIN BOARD

00000000

THEY SET UP THEIR HEADQUARTERS
AT THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING CENTER IN DALLAS, TEXAS



THE WOMAN IS CHARGED
NAMED JANE CHANDLER
SHE'S TOWNS, BRANT, AND
EAL, LINDSAYE SHE'S RE
SHIPPED OF COMPUTERS, A
ANY KIND OF PROGRAMS, A



WAKE-ONE-ONE
IS A JOKER!

"THEY'RE AFRAID ANYBODY WITH ACCESS TO THE
DOCUMENT COULD RUINLY SCOUR THE SYSTEM, OVER-
SAMPLING IT, OR EVEN WIPE IT OUT COMPLETELY."

"I COULD HAVE PEOPLE THINK IT'S ALREADY
WIPED OVER. THAT THE RESPONSE TIME IS
LONG, THAT THE SYSTEM ALLOWS 'DISCRETE
ACTION' BASED ON THE RACIAL AND ECONOMIC
STATUS OF NEIGHBORHOODS."

"NOT INTO
HOW THEY'RE
FORWARDED
THRU."

9

1

1

"IT'S ENTERTAINMENT, PURE AND
SIMPLE. SO ARE THEY'RE BUYING STYL
JEWELRY, HANDBAGS, AND THE
CONSPIRACY AND TOLSON PRO-
JECT BULLETIN BOARDS."

"THEY COMMUNICATE THEIR
COMPUTERS, THEIR MESSAGES
BOTH THEIR ACTIONS WITHOUT
EVER FILING CHARGES."

"AND NOW
THEY'RE AFTER
US."





"NOT A WORD ON THE NEWS ABOUT ANY OF THIS."

The net is
WIPED today

Almost everybody is up in NEWS over the
Sean Johnson bust and the dirty BBS



What does internet me is
who PUT it there?



It's a long TRAIL, but
it finally takes me to
a familiar place

But there are some mysterious
SILENCES. Whole ARCADE full of
locked doors.



Close enough, there was a copy
of the (FBI) document on my system
I had a look before I WIPED it---it
wasn't best INTERESTS

To Rhythmic World Industries



And through them to my
old ex-friend TOMMY



digitronix



"HIS REAL NAME IS JACK MARRSHALL. I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT HIM FOR YEARS. HE'S REALLY MUCH INTERESTED THE DIGITIZING COMPUTER, BUT NOW HE'S DONE FREEDANCE

"ONCE HE GETS AN OPEN IN HIS HEAD, HE WON'T LET GO."

"IF HE TRIPS ON THE OLDEST SERVICE MEN'S JODE, BUT WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH DAMNED HE'LL DO IN THE PROCESS"

"HE'S NOT GOING TO GET HER OUT OF JAIL, AND HE'S NOT GOING TO GET HER EQUIPMENT BACK"

"I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS"

"YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I KNOW WHO ENOUGH CLEVER TO DO SOMETHING"

"LIFE, WHAT? WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?"

"I DON'T KNOW, JUST STOP HIM"

IF I COULD LIVE MY WAOOL LIFE ON THE NETTS
IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL. WHEN I'M ON-LINE I DON'T
EVEN HAVE A BODY, LET ALONE A HANDICAP.



BUT THIS IS REAL LIFE. WHICH MEANS I
HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE MEAT MACHINE,
BATHS, GOING TO THE BATHROOM, AND
THE WORST OF ALL...

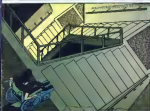


GROCERY SHOPPING



TAP
TAP

ELEVATOR
OUT OF SERVICE
USE STAIRS



WHEEL CHAIRS





FREEZE, SISTER



GO



GO!



GO!



CLICK



DROP IT OR
WE ROBBIT NOW
YOUR CHOICE



OH GOD

THIS IS NOT A JOKE



YOU'RE LUCKY I
DON'T BLOW YOU TO
SHARDERS

THE MAN YOU
SHOT MIGHT JUST
BE FRIEND...

HE WAS AN
OFFICIAL AGENT OF
THE U.S. TREASURY
DEPARTMENT



TO BE
CONTINUED

usr/hacker/mail

DC COMICS INC. • 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

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One fear I had when I heard of THE HACKER FILES was that it would be inaccessible to non-computer hackers. The subject matter seemed to indicate a background in computers with an emphasis on the technology and terminology. While I'm what's called "computer literate," I'm not interested in programming nor the language associated with it. Most computer stories oversimplify these aspects and thus lose the excitement.

Issue #2 proved that THE HACKER FILES is different. While that initial lingo is seen, lack of understanding of it is not crucial. In fact, I'd imagine it only adds to the enjoyment of the title, not detracts from it. The overall story ("SoftWare") is an interesting work on its own that I'm pleased to see DC explore. There are no consumed heroes to awe the day. There really is little suspension of disbelief. That's good! The stunning Sutton/Buckingham art also makes the tale even more tangible. No one is glorified. These are everyday people.

The best part of THE HACKER FILES, though, is what I'd refer to as Lewis Shiner's "editorializing." What I mean by this is his inclusion of beliefs held by the characters that he adds to enrich the story. Sutcliffe's discussion on money and power was wonderful. It seems a topic that comic book hasn't dared touch. Perhaps this is because it's a taboo in society to break the "myths" we've set up as to how and why our country works. Of course we're not on a gold standard anymore. Of course money is the key operator of a capitalist system. This is interesting stuff.

THE HACKER FILES is a book for mature readers in thought. Though the tale has no label on it, I do wonder if you'll be receiving any flak from the natty within. As I see it, the subject matter alone for this tale will preclude any young readers from picking it up.

Nice work all around, especially from Lewis Shiner. Looking forward to this series more now that it's established and set to explore the possibilities ahead.

Mark Lucas
1708 Garfield Avenue #2
Los Angeles, CA 90049-6626

I've just finished reading THE HACKER FILES #1 and felt that it was of the utmost urgency that I write.

My name is Jim MacLorowald and I'm with an organization called Safe Hax International. We are a group of about 250 computer anti-theftists who are sick to death of computer thieves and have decided to do something about it.

We offer a \$1000 reward for anyone who gives us information leading to the arrest and conviction of a virus programmer (and this amount is going up every month). This reward is being made possible by regular people and software companies, each giving a minimum of \$50 from their own pocket, trying to slow down a rapidly-growing plague.

I will be happy to send more information to those who are interested, if they will please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to my address.

Hope to see THE HACKER FILES as a very successful magazine!

Jim MacLorowald
Safe Hax International
P.O. Box 724
Port Huron, MI 48133-0724

Safe Hax also sells virus-killing programs cheap, but only for the AMIGA computer. Don't know how many AMIGA users we have out there, but thought I'd spread the word anyway.

I've never been a serious comic book collector, but I have considered myself a devoted modern user. So when I was informed of THE HACKER FILES, I immediately expressed great interest.

With THE HACKER FILES we have a comic book that is not devoted to super-heroes in tights, but rather something based much more on real-life events and technology. That is the part that impressed me most: the realism. From the hacker tale (listening to speed metal like Metallica [most actually don't, to the use of "jsh" in place of the letter "f", to the realistic portrayal of backchannels in general, the realism of the book shines.

I was also impressed by the use of real computer terms and the way they were used in so to define them for non-computer users yet sound natural to people familiar with the terms.

THE HACKER FILES has quickly become my favorite comic book (or should I say "phavorite"?), but there is one small problem—that being that it is but a two-volume masterpiece. Any chance for a regular HACKER FILES series?

Keep up the great work!

Todd Rippinger Happy Henry!
2001 Plaza Avenue
Rockford, IL 61103

If you guys want an ongoing series, you better start buying multiple copies. And if your store has sold out (which seems to be happening a lot), get your retailer to reorder!

"SoftWare" Part Two gave us, for the most part, a good, solid, "origin" story which clearly showed us the past and present relationships between the main players in this saga. Sutcliffe comes across as a titan who glories in the power that the making of money gives him, but without the intellectual framework to understand the subtleties of why that power works, which is, no doubt, what has made him the fat boy that he is. Obviously a very dangerous enemy! Jack Marshall shouldn't really gloat at his temporary defeat of him, for he'll be back, with a vengeance—because he's moved by powerful, negative emotions, and that's what rules the world, it seems. That appears to be the message developed by the Christian character of Frodo and some of the comments made in Lewis Shiner's text page: the world that we would like to see, the one properly worth living in, is where people care for each other, recognizing each other's importance in the rat of human life.

And this is symbolized in the opening pages of the story. The elevator-ride's calmness about another individual's life is starkly contrasted two pages later by the design on page 3, where we see the group of hackers, each a figure of ridicule and concerns from normal society, who have become a part of a new system of collaboration, camaraderie in the first diagram which is in essence, a higher level of social interaction—interaction of the co-operative mind rather than an anarchy of the baser emotions. I can only observe this with, to be honest, jealousy, as I know I am never going to become a part of this life. Hax, I despair, will most people in the world—mainly because computers represent a technology that has developed too fast for human ability, for human morality. It has no room for my weakness, for Sutcliffe's greed, for Bylaster's malice/obsession. Those in charge of our lives are too old, too engrained in the obsolete past, too blessed slow—that only the very young and the very focused can now understand the absolute nature of the Machines. The fat boys who see power only in the gross-out terms—Sutcliffe, and, it must be said, General Biting—are only going to see computers as a tool that can be terribly misused, as the last panel reveals, rather than as a metaphor for a better life.

But should we let Master Blaster lead the way to a new world?
Why is the answer to that question just too scary for words?

Jim Jackson
18 Allen Road
Boggy Hill, Kent TN12 3SF
ENGLAND

It's flattering that we moved you to such careful reading and such deep thoughts. Thanks.

This is my first time writing to any comic book, but this is no ordinary book. This is a sharp sense of reality that inspires around your book, making you believe the issues brought up are real. I myself am a computer enthusiast, so when I saw this book sitting at the comic shop I just had to get it. What I saw was a comic book looking at computer hacking as a crime for the 80's, like it should be.

The artwork is very well done, again showing great realism and detail. I especially love the way Jack is depicted; he definitely looks out of place around all those Pentagon people. It shows the kind of person he is.

I can tell that a lot of research has gone into this project, and that is what will make it a success, your close attention to realism. I plan to stick around and see what future issues hold for Jack and crew, and to see if the originality of the first issue will be maintained for fresh ideas and insight. So, for the next couple of months I'll be putting my \$2.95 (Canadian) down for THE HACKER FILES.

Dave Peter-Rogallo
No address given

P.S. Maybe all that stuff that Degradable controls is run by some sort of Artificial Intelligence. And what's this stereotype about all hackers feeling to speed music?

Working is not a crime (yet) and neither is slacking off (though some places put you in jail for it anyway). Since all this stuff got into mainstream culture, there's a lot of confusion of terms, but at least here at HACKER FILES, "hacking" means "hack but don't touch" and "cracking" means doing something that's actually going to hurt some body else.

Did consistency as "technical incompetence" fit in the words of the Wislady Mubai Hissaid, "Someday, some, could be."

P.S. Dave, you mean everybody doesn't listen to speed music? Speeder Henderson rule!

In my (computer) opinion, HACKER FILES #2 goes downhill considerably from #1, both in terms of computer and computer industry veracity and in terms of storytelling logic.

OK, so just how did Subtitle get Marshall out of the Pentagon? Last we saw, Marshall was being lapped by a Pentagon guard deep in the building. Then he comes to in a hotel room? Huh? Who hopped? And the Argonaut is still being any too ubiquitous. Oh, and that hotel room? All that happens is he sees boxes with nothing of any substance at all to him and then has him thrown down a flight of stairs and let go. What's the point? And no off-site backup? As a computer company? No way. Not to mention that the box with the Marshall copy was already shipping based on Marshall's thoughts; rather, had to cross copies of things already out there in the market and expect to get all of it. And for someone who writes an opsys that is ridiculously successful to be threatened with not working in the computer (he again is only his retail should have had it) or so offers the next day. Okay! Despite calling in Marshall, doesn't seem to care that Marshall resisted from the Pentagon and now struts back in. Nor did he apparently save him while he was gone. And we still have the problem of Chryseus Mithras having secure systems linked to the Argonaut. At best, some sensitive machines were in Mithras's hands not entirely Lotta problems here.

TJ GALLOWAY (TJ)
Giles

Marshall was going after the off-site backup when the cops stopped him. Well, I guess I should have said something at the time. Whether Subtitle could have carried out his double-cross or not, Marshall is making a comfortable living freelance. For the Miscellaneous/SecureNet question, see issue #1, page 3-8.

Issue #2 was very heavy on background explanation and exposition. In typical comic-book shorthand, though, I thought it used a lot of the mythology of the computer industry reasonably well. I used to know a "hacker" who eventually went with Wang when he and some fellow MIT disquats were trying the "con-

solidating" exam, a new Air Force satellite developed a pinhole puncture in a fuel tank, and they started it spinning so erratically the inertial guidance system became useless. (The optimists thought it was a miscom score; the pessimists thought it was a Russian satellite with a laser gun.) Anyway, three kids walked into the Air Force ground-control office one afternoon, switched on the guidance system in a duplicate bird here on the ground, then told the spinning satellite to forget its own guidance info and follow them into it was getting from the ground. With that as a basis of stability, they fired the right succession of guidance info to stop the tumbling, gave the satellite back its now stable guidance program, and went out for a celebratory beer. The Air Force couldn't ADMIT that a crew of hippie phone-hackers saved the launch. THEY couldn't, but rumor and word of mouth turned their little consulting service into a Hot Property! I hope that few-er presses in issue #3.

LSTARD
Giles

I'm not what anyone would call a computer enthusiast other than the misanthropy of several languages, the use of some E-mail and classical programs, and enough hardware knowledge to know what to keep my fingers out of, I'm a total code computer-wise. And perhaps that's why I decided to pick up THE HACKER FILES; to immerse myself in some real-world adventures I could not possibly have any other way. And as of issue #2, I was being greatly entertained.

I do think it was redundant of Lewis to emphasize that this is a people, and not a computer, story, because the story certainly said so for itself. The artists are brilliant. They complement the effect Lewis tries to bring across, with his different points of view of a single moment, with stunning grace. This book is definitely good. Now, is there any chance of it running beyond the third twelve issues?

Art
8 Myrtle Crescent
Brompton, Ontario L6B 2A2
CANADA

Crap first issue, I really enjoyed it. The biggest delight was that most of the computer stuff was real, very nicely researched, even the screen shots made sense. It is also refreshing to see hacker culture looked into with more than cursory interest.

(Leaving Tom Catby on the covers makes sense but I think you can push him; he can do covers that are even more complex and rocking).

Lewis Slater has set up the characters well; you get that instant identification of who they are. It is also good to see Mark Buckingham being a DC comic again. His run on BLUEBLAZER gave us some of its best issues. Lorenz Klotzmann's colors, however, do make a little heavy.

I found Mr. Skinner's letter at the back very refreshing. It is not often that we get this kind of insider view of how a comic is written and produced.

You know you're taking a huge risk here—an intelligent comic with a good plot and no super heroes, not even a huge inter-titling bog god to pull Marshall out of the fire (which he usually is in at the end of it). What more can I ask for peer story, doing art, Mark, please!

Joel Noyd
PO Box 1843
London MI 481
ENGLAND

Joel is a bit of a mess of mine, whom I hang out with at the old UK convention, but I'm sure that has no effect on his being the best. Right, Joel?

And thanks to the miracle of the modem, we at last have our first comment on issue #4.

Hey, Giles did the HACKER FILES' letter page! Thanks, Lewis!

This was a nice conclusion to the SoftWare storylines. Marshall continues to be a most interesting character. More comments later when more people have read this one.

POWERS, GEM (Pam Preston)
Giles

NEXT ISSUE! Our first long-time-dad guest star, as Hal Green (Laird Jordan) tries to keep Marshall from single-handedly dismantling the U.S. Secret Service. Once John Doe in the supermarket and Freddy phreaks out. Join us in thirty for the conclusion of "Operation Moon Witch."

—Lewis Slater

OCD Kicking ass
and taking names



WOOOONG

<http://ocd.conforums.com>

#ocd on newnet